2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

(*Coregonus leucichtys, C. Omul, C. Muksun, C. clupoides*), the chief catch of the natives on the shores of Okhotsk and Bering seas consists of salmon of the genus *Oncorhynchus;* the dog salmon (*O. lagocephalus* or *O. keta*), the humpback salmon (*O. proteus* or *O. horbusha*), the red salmon (*O. lycaodon* or *O. niarka*), the chawicha (*Salmo orientalis*), and some others. With the migrating fish coming from the Arctic Ocean belong also the starlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*) and the sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*). 136

Many coregonidae and other species of fish live continuously in the Arctic rivers and in the numerous tundra lakes.

Population of the Polar Region

The population to the north of the Verkhoyansk Ridge is very small. This region has only 0.01 man to a quadratic mile, or 1 man to 100 square miles. Settlements are confined to the river valleys and the shores of large lakes abounding in fish. The tundra dweller of Siberia seldom settles on the seacoast or on the adjacent islands, as do the American Eskimo. Since off shore the sea is quite shallow the hunting of sea mammals has not been developed; for instance, the ocean between the mouth of the Kolyma River and the Sviatoi Nos to the west is only seven meters deep at a distance of ten or twenty miles from shore. West of the Chukchee are no sea-going peoples and no skin boats. Late in the fall, when snowstorms begin to rage on the tundra, the nomadic natives wander southward to the protection of the forests. 161 634 131 [361]

The Chukchee and Yukaghir are regarded as indigenous tribes of the region. The Tungus were forced to the Arctic region when the Yakut, migrating from the south, occupied Yakut Province. In their turn, the Yakut crossed the Verkhoyansk Ridge when the Russian conquerors invaded the Lena country and were followed to the Arctic region by Russians who settled at the mouths of the rivers. The climate is unfit for agriculture, but the Yakut introduced horned cattle and horses. Cattle-breeding, however, also encounters many obstacles: the grasses are of poor quality, the haying and fishing seasons coincide, and for nine months of the year the soil is covered with a deep layer of snow. In spite of the abundance of fish, famines are frequent, owing to lack of cooperation, methods of conservation, and foresight. The basic economic foundation of Arctic Siberia is the domesticated reindeer. The Yakut, as well as all the other tribes of the region, both aboriginal and immigrant, are endeavoring to acquire the reindeer, an important factor in their welfare. [221] [511]

2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

291 177 In addition to the clothing enumerated above, the Yakut sometimes wear a *shiletzik* (Russian *shilet*, waistcoat), *altyc* (Russian *galstux*, cravat), *kufaiky* (Russian *fufaika*, sweater), *plat* (Russian *platok*, handkerchief), etc., which they have adopted from the Russians together with their names.

At home, the Yakut, particularly in the summer or during the winter before the hearth, prefer wearing only short breeches. Women wear their skirts.

276 177 Pipes are of various shapes. The bowl may be of iron, brass, pewter, or bone and the stem often consists of two halves held together by a leather binding. By loosening the leather strip the stem may be cleaned. A tobacco pipe made of mammoth ivory, the bowl and stem being of the same material, is shown in Fig. 44. To diminish the strength of the leaf

Fig. 44

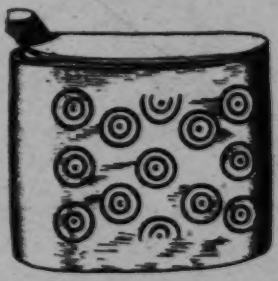

Fig. 45

Fig. 44 (70-9210). Pipe made of Mammoth Ivory.
Fig. 45 (70-8940). Wooden Snuff Box.

tobacco and also for economy, the Yakut mix it with shredded poplar bark (*tirāx tatyrga*). They also adopted the custom of snuffing tobacco from the Russians. A wooden box for snuff may be seen in Fig. 45.

513 Bedding consists of a fur robe (mare, reindeer or bearskin) called *tāllāx* and a blanket, *suorhan*. The blanket is sewed of hares' backs, legs, or heads or of white fox legs and tails. Poor people cover themselves with their fur coats and sleep on grass mats. Pillows are made of calico filled with bird down or feathers. Usually two people sleep under one blanket with their heads in opposite directions. (For the position of sleeping places in the Yakut dwelling see p. 135).[1] A Yakut traveler [511] usually carries his own bedding with him, for even rich people seldom own a sufficient quantity to accommodate transient guests.

152 My observations on the ability of the Yakut to endure severe cold may be of interest on this point. When spending the night in the open

[1] [cf. category 342 -- ANALYST]

6: Sauer--114 [2] G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 141, 178, 511, 556

"There is perhaps no nation in the world that can exhibit a greater variety with regard to size. The affluent, whose dwellings are situated about the meadows on the south side of the Virchoyanski chain, are from five feet ten inches to six feet four inches high, well proportioned, extremely strong, and very active; while the indigent inhabitants of the more northern parts are in general below the middle size, indolent, and of an unhealthy complexion, evidently stunted by the badness of their food, the severity of the climate, and the want of proper cloathing. Their wealth consists in horses and horned cattle: The private property of no individual at this instant exceeds 2000, all species included; formerly, numbers of them possessed 20,000, according to their own testimony..."

9: Stadling--90 E-3 (1898) 1901 Yakut
116, 234, 426, 466, 511

"The Yakut cattle are very small and of inferior quality. The cows give very little milk; a family of ordinary size needs for its subsistence from 10 to 15 head of cattle, of which 7 to 9 are milch cows. The great majority of Yakut families, however, have not so many, and want and famine are very common among them. As a rule they are deeply in debt to a few wealthy individuals, mostly of their own people, who keep them in a state of slavery, and being thus compelled to work most of their time for them, they are unable during the short summer to provide for their own wants. Their principal work consists in gathering hay on the meadows and marshes."

17: Erman--258-260 N-3 (1828-29) 1850 Yakut-1-3
116, 291, 511, 557, 177.55 Russia
636.55

"Sunduki and Nyuis are likewise Yakutian villages, with a small share of Russian population. The dwellings here are extremely neat, and both the food and clothing of the people bear witness to their comfortable circumstances. The women, generally, wear in the house, a gown of some coloured web; the men wear short over-coats of reindeer skin, with the hair turned in, and the outside leather-coloured. A young Yakutian woman replied to me, with great naïvetè, as I was commending her housekeeping, 'That all the Russians now seemed to think as I did, for they were no longer above marrying a Yakut.' In [259] fact, the envy which the opulence of the Asiatics has usually awakened in the minds of the European invaders, takes here the deceitful appearance of esteem. The Russians flatter the strong, because these will not allow themselves to be imposed upon.

The lowest temperature to-day was —2 R. The morning was cloudy, and snow fell a little before noon. After that the sky became quite clear, and continued so for half an hour, till we found ourselves beyond Bukhturminsk, between high cliffs. Then there came on suddenly a gust, with a whirlwind from the west; in a few seconds the upper part of the heavens was covered with thick and heavy clouds. Before us dark streaks hung down from the edges of the lowering masses, without touching the horizon, and while I was thinking how like this looked to a summer hail-storm, we heard, all at once,

the rattling of the falling stones, and were overwhelmed with compact and heavy pieces of ice. They had the form of tetrahedrons, three lines long on each side, and, when crushed, broke into regular triangular laminae. They wanted only the rounding off of one of the surfaces which is usually seen in summer hail. Taken in conjunction with what I thus experienced myself, some meteorological statements of the peasants in Dubrova seemed important. They told me that in their country there were hail storms in winter too, and, in answer to a question of mine, they asserted, that they had also known instances of thunder and lightning in winter; such a storm had occurred, for instance, the preceding year, about Christmas, with mist, after very severe frost. On the north-west coast of America, indeed, where the humid and warm sea air falls on the cold land, I have known hail and electric storms in winter, but such a phenomenon in the middle of the continent was quite unexpected. Storms of this kind are unknown in Irkutsk and in Yakutsk, and must therefore be regarded as local effects of the air issuing from the narrower parts of the valley. In fact, the suddenness of congelation and precipitation which gives rise to hail and electric clouds, suggest themselves to the mind when we think of the humid air from between the cliffs, with the much colder air of the adjacent plains; and, accordingly, winter hail and winter thunder-storms appear to characterize the region of goitre on the Lena, as distinctly as the absence of summer hail characterizes

the valleys of the Alps where cretinism is most prevalent.

We arrived in the morning at the Russian houses of Yerbinsk, thirty-five versts from Nyuis, which lie on the left [260] bank, in a fertile opening of the valley encircled by hills, on which pine woods are intermingled with bare rocks. On the way here from Irkutsk, I had hitherto always observed a very weak eastern declination of the magnetic needle; we were therefore not far from the line of no declination. Here, in Yerbinsk, it was apparent that we had crossed that line yesterday for the third time in the course of our journey, and that we were now again, as we had been in Kiakhta and in Europe, in a division of the earth having a western declination."

24: Wrangell--192 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 166, 511, 651, 177.16 Russia
636.16

"The Tschuwanzi and Jukahiri of the greater Aniuj, from having had far less intercourse with the Russians than has been the case with the dwellers on the banks of the lesser Aniuj, have retained much more of their original language, manners, and customs. The Lamuti and Tungusi along these two rivers have also lost their tame reindeer, and now live poorly on the uncertain produce of the chase and the fisheries. Nor are those Jakuti much better off, who have been brought by the government from the banks of the Aldan, to aid in transporting provisions and other stores to the fort which formerly existed on the Anadyr. Separated from the rest of their countrymen, they have forgotten even their language, and have assimilated to the Russians in manners, mode of life, and even physical appearance. They live almost exclusively by fishing, and their only domestic animals are the dogs which they use for draught.

The population on the banks of the Aniuj has increased latterly, but this cannot be regarded as a sign of improvement in the condition of the people. It is caused by the influx of different nomade tribes, who, having lost their reindeer by sickness or other causes, have been forced to seek their subsistence in the neighbourhood of the rivers, like the rest of their countrymen. The number of persons in this district who still continue to lead a nomade life does not exceed 400. All the inhabitants are subject to a yearly tribute, which they pay partly in furs and partly in money."

24: Wrangell--292-293 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 511, 577, 619

"The character of the Jakuti of Werchojansk has been injured by constant intercourse with their countrymen of Jakuzk, and litigiousness, quarrels, dishonesty, and a passionate love of card-playing are equally general among them both. Distrust of their neighbours induces them to keep their cattle at night in the jurte which they inhabit, the pestiferous atmosphere of which defies description. The Jakuti who live near the Kolyma are far more cleanly in their habits; they are better dressed, and their dwellings are more comfortable and neat; this is particularly the case in the settlements at some distance from the route along which the traders who [293] carry brandy pass on their way from Jakuzk to Kolymsk."

38: Dobell--38 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 511, 464, 556

"The population of the province of Yakutsk is upwards of one hundred thousand souls, between eighty and ninety thousand of whom are Yakuts, and many of them were extremely rich; but now there are few large proprietors. Indeed there is actually amongst them a very large proportion of poor, who, if it were not for the employment they find amongst the Russians, and the great cheapness of living, would be reduced to beggary."

/184 cont./

224 caught in traps, but is also dug out of its den, as we ourselves had
[435] an opportunity to observe on our return journey. The price of a good skin here yields on the average about a ruble, but many different kinds are distinguished according to quality, and the poorer ones are valued at only half a ruble; the winter pelts are, of course, the best. The highly prized blue variety of the arctic fox seems
[651] to be practically unknown here. The crown tax as well as the goods purchased from the merchants are paid for with the skins of the arctic fox.

[543] Around Easter a kind of annual fair is held here, at which appear both the inhabitants of the islands lying in front of the mouth of the Olenék and those from the nearest settlements of the forest region, in order /185/ to trade skins for the necessary commodities
[571] from the traders -- tobacco, tea, cloth, ironware, etc. Despite the inhospitable climate the people here seem to be well off and
[512] very content. Even during the dark months they go about their
[132] activities out in the open, especially fishing, and only about the time of the reappearance of the sun, around the Day of the Holy Three Kings (sixth of January, old style), when the most frightful snowstorms set in, do they shut themselves up completely -- often
342 for a couple of weeks -- in their dwellings. The latter are much
362 more solidly built than in the forest region, in order to offer suf-
313 ficient resistance against the force of the storms. The material for building as well as for heating consists of driftwood which is supplied by the river and even more by the ocean. Besides the
797 merchants, Boljkalák is also visited almost annually by a missionary, who holds services in the chapel here. Chitrow praises the devoutness of the people -- the outward signs of this did not remain unnoticed by us either.

554 On the day after our arrival the elder (stárosta) of the
292 Kangaláss Jakuten /Yakut/ appeared with fresh reindeer for the
123 return journey. He ranked higher than both the local elder and the one accompanying us and wore, as a mark of distinction, a sort of uniform, a yellowish gray cloth coat with red trimming
233 and a gold-embroidered belt with a short sword. The new reindeer, which had to be given a day of rest, and the previous ones